

REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 14, and 16-18 are amended. Claims 1-18 remain pending in the present application.

I. Response to Claim Objection

The Office Action suggested that the term “data path macro cell” is unclear. Applicants wish to clarify any misunderstanding of this term by referring to the specification. In the first paragraph of the BACKGROUND section, for example, the terminology is explained in general. In particular, “data path” is a design technique for ICs in which a bus passes through one macro cell after another. The data path design technique reduces routing complexity of the buses. A “macro cell” generally is an arrangement of leaf cells which performs a function.

Other paragraphs in the BACKGROUND and DETAILED DESCRIPTION sections provide additional support for the terminology “data path macro cell”. If the Examiner prefers more generalized terminology or wishes to suggest alternative terminology, Applicants are amenable to such suggestions.

Additionally, the claims have been amended for clarification. For instance, minor changes in claim 1 have been made in order to clarify the functions of the controller and to maintain consistency with the specification. The dependency of claim 6 has been changed in order to avoid any antecedent issues. Other changes have been made throughout the claims to correct minor informalities.

II. Response to 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Schlansker et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,28). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the grounds that *Schlansker et al.* does not disclose each and every element of the claims.

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. See, e.g., *W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in a single prior art reference. See e.g., *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1475, 31 USPQ 2d 1671 (Fed. Cir. 1994); *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 15 USPQ 2d 1655 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Anticipation

requires identity of the claimed process and a process of the prior art. The claimed process, including each step thereof, must have been described or embodied, either expressly or inherently, in a single reference. *See, e.g., Glaverbel S.A. v. Northlake Mkt'g & Supp., Inc.*, 45 F.3d 1550, 33 USPQ 2d 1496 (Fed. Cir. 1995). In the present application, *Schlansker et al.* fails to disclose each and every feature of the independent claims.

A. **Claim 1**

For convenience, claim 1 is reproduced below:

1. A system for generating a data path macro cell comprising:
memory; and

a controller configured to *generate data representing a graphical layout of a data path macro cell;*

wherein the controller is configured to *generate a text format template comprising a variable, the text format template being generated based upon said data representing a graphical layout of said data path macro cell;*

wherein the controller is configured to *store the text format template in the memory and retrieve the text format template from the memory;*

wherein the controller is further configured to *substitute a predetermined value for said variable to generate a text format file representative of a data path macro cell having predetermined characteristics;* and

wherein the controller is further configured to *generate a data file representing a graphical layout of a data path macro cell represented by said text format file.*

(Emphasis added)

Claim 1 is a system comprising memory and a controller, wherein the controller is configured to perform a number of functions, as highlighted above. The Office Action alleges that *Schlansker et al.* discloses these features. Applicants disagree with this suggestion and assert that *Schlansker et al.* fails to disclose any controller functionality, and particularly the specific functionality defined in claim 1. Although the Office Action points to various passages in *Schlansker et al.* for support, Applicants assert that these passages do not teach to any degree the specific features

of the claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. Otherwise, Examiner is requested to provide evidence from the reference or an explanation of the interpretations of the reference that show teachings of the claimed features.

In the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), it is noted that the Office Action substantially repeats Applicants' claim 1 word for word with the exception that after the term "substitute", the word "determine" is added in parentheses. Applicants traverse this interpretation of the term "substitute" and assert that the term should be interpreted instead by its plain and ordinary meaning.

B. Claim 2

For convenience, claim 2 is reproduced below:

2. A system for generating a data path macro cell comprising:
memory for storing a text format template, said text format template comprising a variable; and
a controller configured to *retrieve said text format template and substitute a predetermined value for said variable to generate a text format file representative of a data path macro cell having predetermined characteristics;*
wherein the controller is further configured to *generate a data file representing a graphical layout of a data path macro cell represented by said text format file.*

(Emphasis added)

Claim 2 is also a system comprising memory and a controller, wherein the controller is configured to perform a number of functions, as highlighted above. The Office Action alleges that *Schlansker et al.* discloses these features. Again, Applicants disagree with this suggestion and assert that *Schlansker et al.* fails to disclose any controller functionality whatsoever, and particularly the specific functionality defined in claim 2. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. Also, it is believed that dependent claims 3-8 are allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 2.

C. Claim 9

For convenience, claim 9 is reproduced below:

9. A method of generating a data path macro cell comprising the steps of:
retrieving a text format template comprising a variable;
substituting a predetermined value for said variable to generate a text format file representative of a data path macro cell having predetermined characteristics;
and
generating a data file representative of a graphical layout of a data path macro cell represented by said text format file.

(Emphasis added)

Claim 9 is a method comprising a number of steps, as highlighted above. The Office Action alleges that *Schlansker et al.* discloses these steps. However, Applicants disagree with this suggestion and assert that *Schlansker et al.* fails to disclose any of the specific steps claimed in claim 9. Applicants also assert that the cited passages of *Schlansker et al.*, which the Examiner relies upon to allegedly reject the claims, do not teach to any degree the specific features of the claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection or provide evidence from the reference showing such teachings. In addition, dependent claims 10-12 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable independent claim 9.

D. Claim 13

For convenience, claim 13 is reproduced below:

13. A method of generating a data path macro cell comprising the steps of:
generating data representing a graphical layout of a data path macro cell;
generating a text format template comprising a variable, based upon said data representing a graphical layout of said data path macro cell;
substituting a predetermined value for said variable to generate a text format file representative of a data path macro cell having predetermined characteristics;
and
generating a data file representative of a graphical layout of a data path macro cell represented by said text format file.

(Emphasis added)

Claim 13 is a method comprising a number of steps, as highlighted above. The Office Action alleges that *Schlansker et al.* discloses these steps. Applicants disagree with this allegation and assert that *Schlansker et al.* fails to disclose any of the specific steps claimed in claim 9. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. Also, dependent claim 14 is believed to be allowable for at least the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent claim 13.

E. Claim 15

For convenience, claim 15 is reproduced below:

15. A computer program for generating a data path macro cell, the computer program comprising:

a first code segment for *retrieving a text format template comprising a plurality of variables;*

a second code segment for *substituting respective values for said variables in said text format template to generate a text format file representative of a data path macro cell having predetermined characteristics;* and

a third code segment for *generating a data representative of a graphical layout of a data path macro cell represented by said text format file.*

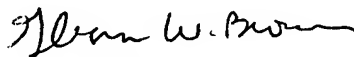
(Emphasis added)

Claim 15 is a computer program comprising code segments for performing a number of operations, as highlighted above. The Office Action alleges that *Schlansker et al.* discloses these features. Applicants disagree with this allegation and assert that *Schlansker et al.* fails to disclose any of the computer code operations particularly defined in claim 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. Dependent claims 16-18 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 15.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (770) 933-9500.

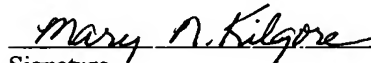
Respectfully submitted,



Glenn W. Brown
Reg. No. 51,310

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 03-08-05



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